

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAB-01 SAJ-01 NEA-14 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /143 W

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R 200911Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6166

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6990

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CB

SUBJ: SOVIET INTEREST IN CAMBODIA

REF: MOSCOW 7165

1. I NOTED AMBASSADOR STOESSEL'S TELEGRAM OF MAY 15 (REFTEL) BUT HAVE NOT SEEN DEPARTMENT'S REPLY. WHEN I TALKED WITH LOCAL TASS REPRESENTATIVE (WHO APPEARS TO BE SENIOR SOVIET GOVERNMENT OFFICER IN PHNOM PENH) END OF LAST MONTH, LATTER GAVE NO INDICATION THAT SOVIETS PLAN TO CLOSE DOWN THEIR MISSION COMPLETELY. QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, EVERYTHING TASS JOURNALIST SAID INDICATED THAT SOVIETS WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT BEING LEFT OUT IN THE COLD. HE REFERRED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE USG ROLE PLAYED IN BRINGING ABOUT POLITICAL SOLUTION IN LAOS, WHERE HE CLAIMED SOVIETS WORKED CLOSELY WITH AMERICANS, AND HOPED THAT LAO SOLUTION COULD SOMEHOW BE A PRECEDENT IN A SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA.

2. FACT THAT KHIEU SAMPHAN HAS NOW BYPASSED SOVIET UNION AND IS BACK IN CHINA ON HIS WAY HOME "INTO THE BUSH" SHOULD SUPPORT AMBASSADOR STOESSEL'S IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS FEEL VERY LEFT OUT IN CAMBODIA AND WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE INVOLVED. IN THIS CONNECTION I RECALL THAT MARSHAL LON NOL ALSO FEELS
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THAT SOVIETS "HAD REFRAINED FROM ATTACKING HIS GOVERNMENT

AND HAD TRIED TO MAINTAIN A CORRECT POSTURE" (PHNOM PENH
5124). IN SHORT, AS SEEN FROM PHNOM PENH, I BELIEVE IT
WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR AMBASSADOR STOESSEL TO PROVIDE SOVIETS
WITH OUR CURRENT VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN THE KHMER
REPUBLIC. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SUCH AN ASSESSMENT CAN
BETTER
BE DONE IN PHNOM PENH THAN IN THE DEPARTMENT, WE
WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE SUCH AN EVALUATION.
DEAN

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